

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 229042 TOSEC 270190

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM BROWN (S/PRS)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

NO. 10

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, WITH MINOR
NON-SUBSTANTIVE DELETIONS, FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15:

"MR. BROWN: I HAVE A STATEMENT WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO READ
IN VIEW OF THE DISCUSSION WE HAD HERE YESTERDAY. AGAIN, WE
ARE PASSING OUT COPIES OF THIS SO THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY
FOR YOU TO TAKE NOTES. IF THERE IS ANY LINGERING DOUBT
ABOUT OUR POLICY WITH REGARD TO COMBATTING TERRORISM, I
THINK THIS STATEMENT WILL BE OF SOME HELP.

'I WOULD LIKE TO STATE CATEGORICALLY AND FOR THE RECORD THAT
THE POLICY WHICH INVOLVES A REFUSAL ON THE PART OF THE USG
TO NEGOTIATE WITH TERRORISTS, TO COMPLY WITH MONETARY OR
IN-KIND RANSOM DEMANDS OR TO ACCEDE TO ANY TERRORISTS
DEMANDS HAS NOT CHANGED AND WILL NOT CHANGE. THE MAINTENANCE
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OF THIS NO-NEGOTIATIONS, NO-CONCESSIONS POLICY IS BASED ON
OUR FIRM BELIEF THAT FUTURE INCIDENTS CAN BE DETERRED ONLY
WHEN IT IS WIDELY UNDERSTOOD AND RECOGNIZED THAT SUCH ACTS
CANNOT SUCCEED AND WILL NOT FURTHER THE CAUSE OF THE INDI-

VIDUAL TERRORIST OR INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.

'AMERICAN AMBASSADORS ARE, AND FOR SOME TIME HAVE BEEN, AUTHORIZED TO DEMAND THE WELL-BEING OF HOSTAGES AND REQUEST THEIR UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. AMERICAN AMBASSADORS ARE NOT, AND NEVER HAVE BEEN, AUTHORIZED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS OF ANY KIND. AMBASSADOR RUSH OPERATED IN THE FULL COGNIZANCE OF THIS POLICY AND IN NO WAY VIOLATED THOSE STANDARD INSTRUCTIONS.

'THIS MAY BE THE MOST DIFFICULT OF POLICIES TO FOLLOW AND IN ANY INDIVIDUAL INCIDENT MAY REQUIRE DIFFICULT DECISIONS. HOWEVER, AS SECRETARY KISSINGER STATED IN ORLANDO LAST SEPTEMBER, "OUR GENERAL POSITION HAS BEEN THAT WE WILL NOT NEGOTIATE AS A GOVERNMENT WITH KIDNAPPERS OF AMERICANS BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY AMERICANS IN SO MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD THAT IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PROTECT THEM ALL UNLESS THE KIDNAPPERS CAN GAIN NO BENEFIT FROM SUCH ACTS.'" . . .

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY RELATED EXPLANATION, THEN, OF HOW THIS FITS WITH THE FBI'S ROLE? WE ARE STILL LEFT HANGING ON THAT WHEN YOU SAY 'THE USG' AND NOT JUST THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

A: THE FBI HAD SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THAT YESTERDAY, HENRY. THEY SAID THEY TOOK THEIR ACTION WITH REGARD TO THE LEAFLETS, EARLY ON IN THE HIJACKING, ON THEIR OWN AND IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EVENTS AT THAT MOMENT. THEY THEN REITERATED THAT THEY RECOGNIZE WHAT THE USG POLICY IS WITH REGARD TO COMBATTING TERRORISM. I REFER YOU TO THE STATEMENT THEY MADE YESTERDAY ON THE SUBJECT.

Q: BUT IT IS, IN POINT OF FACT, QUITE CONTRARY TO THE STATED POLICY, WHAT THEY --

A: THEY AS MUCH AS SAID THAT.

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Q: IT SAYS HERE, AT THE BEGINNING OF THE THIRD PARAGRAPH, 'AMERICAN AMBASSADORS . . HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO DEMAND THE WELL-BEING OF HOSTAGES AND REQUEST THEIR UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE.'

A: YES.

Q: IS THAT THE SAME THING AS SAYING, AS YOU SAID YESTERDAY, THAT IT DOESN'T RULE OUT 'TALKS' WITH ABDUCTORS? THE WAY THIS THING IS PHRASED HERE, THAT COULD INCLUDE TALKS WITH THE ABDUCTORS OR EXCLUDE THEM.

A: I THINK THIS SAYS 'TALK,' 'COMMUNICATION' NOT TALKS IN

THE FORMAL SENSE, IMPLYING NEGOTIATIONS, MARVIN. TALK --
COMMUNICATION.

Q: 'TALK' IS A FORM OF COMMUNICATION.

A: THAT IS RIGHT. NOT 'TALKS.'

Q: AND THE AMBASSADOR, THEN, CAN TALK WITH THE ABDUCTORS?

A: YES. COMMUNICATION MAY TAKE PLACE. BUT NOT 'TALKS'
IN THE SENSE THAT THAT WORD IMPLIES A NEGOTIATION OR A
CONCESSION. THERE IS REALLY A CLEAR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
TALKS IN THE DIPLOMATIC SENSE AND TALK IN THE SENSE OF
COMMUNICATION.

Q: WELL, YESTERDAY, WHEN I ASKED YOU TO DEFINE IT, YOU
KIND OF SUGGESTED THAT WE WERE JUST SORT OF QUIBBLING OVER
WORDS. AND I HAVE FOUND, OVER THE YEARS, THAT'S ALL WE DO
HERE IS QUIBBLE OVER WORDS. IS THAT WHAT YOU --

A: I THOUGHT IT WAS A VERY USEFUL DISCUSSION YESTERDAY,
AND I THINK THIS BEARS OUT PRECISELY WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY
ON THE SUBJECT.

Q: THE EMPHASIS YESTERDAY WAS ON TALKING WITH ABDUCTORS
AND CONFINING THOSE TALKS TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE HOSTAGES
AND THE DEMAND FOR UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE.

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A: THAT IS RIGHT --

Q: AND THE EMPHASIS HERE IS --

A: THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT I SAID, MARVIN.

Q: -- IS ON NO NEGOTIATIONS AND NO CONCESSION.

A: I LISTED THE LIMITS TO OUR COMMUNICATIONS YESTERDAY.
THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT I SAID.

Q: FRED, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE TERRORIST STARTED TO
NEGOTIATE WITH THE AMBASSADOR? WOULD HE SHUT UP, IMME-
DIATELY? I MEAN, THAT'S --

A: THAT IS A VERY HYPOTHETICAL KIND OF THING. I CANNOT
POSSIBLY --

Q: CAN'T SAY WHAT WOULD COME OF IT --

A: YOU KNOW, EVERY SITUATION WOULD BE DIFFERENT. I MEAN,
I CANNOT IMAGINE THE HIJACKERS SAYING, 'I AM NOW BEGINNING

A NEGOTIATION.' CAN YOU?

Q: WELL, I CAN'T IMAGINE THE OTHER SIDE, THAT THE AMBAS-
SADOR IS SAYING, 'I AM TALKING WITH YOU BUT I AM NOT
REALLY ENGAGED IN TALKS.'

A: I THINK THAT IT IS CLEAR FROM THIS STATEMENT WHAT OUR
POLICY IS, AND THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE. THAT IS THE
PURPOSE OF MY MAKING THIS STATEMENT TODAY, TO UNDERLINE
WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY.

OTHER QUESTIONS?

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO SENATOR MCGOVERN'S CRITI-
CISM OF THE U.S. SUPPORT FOR PAK CHUNG-HEE?

A: I DO NOT HAVE ANY REACTION TO THAT.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US WHEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT PROTESTED,
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OR WHATEVER IT DID DO IN REGARD TO YUGOSLAVIA'S FAILURE TO
ARREST OR OTHERWISE DETAIN CARLOS, THE TERRORIST?

A: I CAN CONFIRM THAT THE USG HAS EXPRESSED TO THE YUGO-
SLAV GOVERNMENT OUR SERIOUS CONCERN OVER ITS FAILURE TO
DETAIL ILICH RAMIREZ SANCHEZ, ALSO KNOWN AS CARLOS, WHO,
ON THE BASIS OF HIGHLY RELIABLE INFORMATION, WE BELIEVED
TO BE IN YUGOSLAVIA. WE DID THIS ON SEPTEMBER 8 IN
BELGRADE . . . I DO NOT KNOW IF THERE HAS BEEN A RESPONSE
OR NOT.

Q: WHAT DID YOU EXPECT THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT TO DO?

A: . . . INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM IS AN INTERNATIONAL PROB-
LEM, AND WE EXPECTED THAT THE YUGOSLAVS WOULD TAKE APPRO-
PRIATE ACTION WITH REGARD TO CARLOS . . . IT WAS RELIABLY
KNOWN THAT CARLOS WAS IN YUGOSLAVIA, AND THIS RELIABLE
EVIDENCE WAS PRESENTED TO THE YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES WITH
REGARD TO HIS PRESENCE. WE FRANKLY WERE DISAPPOINTED
THAT YUGOSLAVIA DID NOT AVAIL ITSELF OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO
APPREHEND HIM, PARTICULARLY SO IN VIEW OF YUGOSLAVIA'S
CLAIM TO BE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO TERRORISM.

Q: IS HE STILL THERE, OR HAS HE LEFT?

A: I HAVE NOT ANY IDEA.

Q: WHAT COUNTRY'S PASSPORT WAS HE TRAVELLING UNDER?

A: I DO NOT KNOW.

Q: WAS HE TRAVELLING UNDER HIS OWN NAME?

A: I DO NOT KNOW.

Q: CAN YOU FIND OUT?

Q: ALSO WHETHER THERE WAS ANY REPLY ?

Q: WILL YOU FIND OUT?

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A: I CAN ASK. I AM NOT CERTAIN THAT I WILL BE ABLE TO GET THAT INFORMATION FOR YOU.

Q: WHAT SPECIFIC ACTS WAS CARLOS ENGAGED IN THAT THE U.S. KNOWS ABOUT?

A: I DO NOT HAVE A LIST OF HIS ACTIVITIES, GEORGE, BUT I DO RECALL ASSASSINATIONS THAT COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO HIM IN FRANCE. NOW, WITH REGARD TO THE LIST OF POSSIBLE CHARGES AGAINST HIM WHICH THE U.S. MIGHT HAVE, I CANNOT GIVE YOU THAT LIST. ((SUPPLEMENT WAS PROVIDED TO NEWSMEN FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING, TEXT OF WHICH IS INCLUDED AT END OF TELEGRAM))

Q: HAVE OTHER COUNTRIES COMPLAINED TO THE YUGOSLAVS?

A: OUR EXPRESSION OF CONCERN TO YUGOSLAVIA WAS OUR OWN. OF COURSE I AM NOT ABLE TO SPEAK FOR OTHER GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, I AM INFORMED THAT THE FRG HAS PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT INFORMED THE YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES OF CARLOS' PRESENCE IN THAT COUNTRY, AND ASKED THE YUGOSLAVS TO CO-OPERATE. . .

Q: IS IT THAT THE GERMANS INFORMED THE YUGOSLAVS FIRST, AND A NOTE FOLLOWED?

A: THE TIMING, I DO NOT KNOW. I AM GIVEN TO BELIEVE THAT -- THEY HAVE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED IT, AND I AM GIVEN TO BELIEVE THAT THEY COMMUNICATED INFORMATION TO THE YUGOSLAVS IN THE SAME MANNER THAT WE DID, AND THAT THE INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED IN TIME TO ACT UPON IT.

Q: BUT THE YUGOSLAVS DID NOT.

A: THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING.

Q: WAS YOUR INFORMATION RECEIVED IN TIME TO ACT ON IT?

A: YES.

Q: IN LIGHT OF THE LAST LASZLO TOTH AFFAIR, AND THE CARLOS

AFFAIR, AND THE HIJACKING AFFAIR, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE
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U.S.-YUGOSLAVIAN RELATIONS AT THIS TIME?

A: GEORGE, I WOULD NOT WANT TO TAKE IT UPON MYSELF TO OFFER
A BROAD DESCRIPTION OF RELATIONS.

Q: JUMP RIGHT IN.

A: I THINK I WILL JUST DECLINE ANY DESCRIPTIVE COMMENT ON
THAT.

Q: THE STORIES OUT OF THE U.N. SUGGESTED THAT THE AMERICAN
POSITION ON VIET-NAM WAS TAKEN WITH THE AMERICAN ELECTION
IN MIND. PERISH THE THOUGHT, BUT COULD THAT BE TRUE?

A: THAT IS NOT TRUE. OUR ACTIONS IN THIS REGARD ARE NOT
TAKEN ON THE BASIS OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS,
BUT ON A BROADER INTERPRETATION OF NATIONAL INTERESTS. I
THINK THAT HAS BEEN SO STATED RATHER SUCCINCTLY BY THE
PRESIDENT AND BY THE SECRETARY IN RECENT WEEKS. . .

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE CON-
SIDERATION OF THE VIETNAMESE APPLICATION?

A: IT WAS A DECISION TAKEN BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

Q: CAN YOU TELL MY ANYTHING -- WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE
RHODESIAN TENNIS PLAYERS? DID THEY COMPLETE THEIR TOUR?
ARE THEY STILL HERE? HAVE THEY GONE HOME? DID THE STATE
DEPARTMENT TAKE ANY ACTION TO GET THEM OUT OF THE COUNTRY?

A: I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK UP ON WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE
RHODESIAN TENNIS PLAYERS, HENRY. . .

Q: WHAT IS AMERICA'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE LIBERATION MOVE-
MENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA? FOR INSTANCE, WOULD SHE ACCEDE
TO THE REQUEST TO SUPPORT THEM IF THE PRESENT DISCUSSIONS
SHOULD FAIL?

A: I THINK IN DEFERENCE TO THE SECRETARY'S PRESENCE IN
AFRICA AT THIS MOMENT AND THE NEGOTIATIONS AND TALKS THAT
ARE IN PROGRESS AT THIS TIME, I WOULD DECLINE TO OFFER ANY
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COMMENT ON THAT.

THANK YOU." END TEXT OF DAILY BRIEFING

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SUPPLEMENT PROVIDED TO NEWSMEN FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING ON CARLOS:

"CARLOS IS BELIEVED TO BE ILICH RAMIREZ SANCHEZ, A 27-YEAR OLD VENEZUELAN. HE IS WANTED BY FRENCH AUTHORITIES FOR MURDER OF TWO FRENCH POLICEMEN AS WELL AS BY AUTHORITIES IN A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES FOR INVOLVEMENT IN ASSORTED TERRORISTS CRIMES. HE IS BELIEVED TO BE THE LEADER OF THE TERRORIST GROUP WHICH KIDNAPPED OPEC MINISTERS IN VIENNA IN DECEMBER 1975." END TEXT OF SUPPLEMENT.

ROBINSON

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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